

**Introduction**

Identified by the Miami Indians as “Wab-Bah Shik-ki” which means “pure white” for the color of its waters flowing across a bright limestone bed in its upper reaches, the French called it Oubache. Today it is known simply as the Wabash River

Physically the Wabash begins as a drainage ditch near Fort Recovery, Ohio and meanders over 500 miles in length draining two-thirds of the 92 counties in Indiana. In terms of geological history the river is still quite young. When the last glacial ice retreated 25,000 years ago, the flow that would become the Wabash River carried torrents of water from the melting ice forming the Wabash Valley.

Steeped in history the Wabash River is closely connected to Native American culture. Starting over 12,000 years ago, indigenous people occupied the Wabash Valley for thousand of years. Native Americans living along the river in historic times included groups known today as Miami, Wea, Piankashaw, and later Potawatomi.

European contact, spurred by the market for furs, resulted in the Wabash becoming the primary fur trade route between the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. The ensuing battles for control of the Wabash may be its most famous period. Many of those that participated in these conflicts would become celebrated names in the nation’s history: George Rogers Clark, Little Turtle, Tecumseh, The Prophet, Anthony Wayne, Jean Baptiste Richardville, William Henry Harrison

A hundred years later, the Wabash would provide water for the Wabash and Erie Canal stimulating growth in cities along the canal through increased travel and commerce. The river also served communities along its banks as steamboats traveled from the Ohio to the mouth of the Tippecanoe River loaded with corn, wheat, flour, flax, pork, sugar beets, apples, potatoes, and whiskey. The demise of the canal and steamboats was spurred by the onset of rail transportation and the storied Wabash Cannonball took its place in American lore.

Transportation of merchandise was not the only enterprise the Wabash River supported. The abundance of fresh water mussels in the river would lead to a thriving button industry and later in support of the Japanese pearl industry. Eventually, over-harvesting would lead to the disappearance of many fresh water mussel species in the Wabash River.

Recognition of the Wabash River’s importance to Indiana is evident through the designation of, “On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away”, as the State Song and the river as the State River. But it is the communities along the Wabash that provide the tangible remains of its rich history. The recognition of the Wabash River as a Heritage Corridor and establishment of the Corridor Commission brings together the entire river community. Collectively they are working to preserve their cultural and natural heritage while enhancing recreational and economic opportunities, improving the quality of life for their communities.

### **The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund**

In the late 1980's the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began receiving requests for assistance with conservation and recreational development projects along the Wabash River and its historic transportation corridor. In response to this, the Indiana General Assembly appropriated \$700,000 in 1990 and worked with DNR to establish the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) to assist with the funding of projects in Cass, Carroll, Tippecanoe, Fountain, and Warren Counties.

In 1991 the Indiana General Assembly appropriated an additional \$750,000 to the WRHCF program adding Miami, Parke, and Vermillion to the list of eligible counties. That same year, House Enrolled Act 1382 established the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

In 1995 the Indiana General Assembly appropriated an additional \$750,000 for the WRHCF and by 1996 all 19 counties within Wabash River Heritage Corridor became eligible to apply for grants. Two years later, \$5 million was appropriated for the corridor with the intent to use these monies to enhance the natural, recreational, and cultural significance of the river corridor.

Since 1990, 59 projects have been awarded funds totaling \$7,945,794.25 supporting projects investing a total of \$13,433,296.40. The project list is varied including land acquisition, natural resource preservation and enhancement, historic preservation, archeological investigations, and development of recreation facilities. The WRHCF has generated a 40% match over this time. The last grant round was in 2000 where 28 projects were funded. A full list of WRHCF Projects is found in Appendix \_\_\_\_.

### **The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission**

House Enrolled Act 1382 stated that the Commission, "Shall promote the conservation and development of the natural, cultural and recreational resources in the corridor by the exchange of information, establishment of common goals, and cooperative action of the people and governmental units along the corridor."

The current applicable Indiana Code, IC 14-13-6, was amended by the 1997 General Assembly. Voting members of the Commission include, "one individual appointed by the county executive of each county that contains part of the corridor and chooses to support the activities of the Commission by resolution adopted by the county executive", and the director of the Department of Natural Resources or the director's designee. Non-voting members include representatives from the Indiana Departments of Transportation, Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Environmental Management and Commerce - Office of Tourism Development.

### **The mission of the Commission is as follows:**

*The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, representing the Wabash River Heritage Corridor, shall protect and enhance the natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources and encourage sustainable development of the corridor. This will be accomplished by stimulating public interest, encouraging the exchange of information, and supporting the establishment of common goals and cooperative actions of people and communities within the Wabash River Heritage Corridor.*

In April 2002, the Commission hired their first Executive Director to provide a Commission presence in local communities, maintain effective communications and relationships with cooperators and partners, research funding opportunities and implement projects that advance the mission of the Commission. The Commission now has an office in downtown Lafayette providing the Commission with a central contact location and increased visibility. The office is located at 102 North Third St., Suite 302 Lafayette.

**Past Planning Process**

The first *Wabash River Corridor Management Plan* was developed throughout 1992 and early 1993 by means of regional public planning meetings conducted by Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS), and meetings of the Commission. The plan recognized the Corridor as a 510-mile, 19-county corridor greenway (a conservation corridor) with cultural and natural resources rivaling those of any historic transportation route in the country. The purpose of creating the plan was to develop a united vision for the future of the Corridor that would serve as a guide for the Corridor Communities and the Commission.

The vision identified through the planning process was to have: “(1) a river which is attractive and easily usable for fishing, canoeing, and boating; (2) a corridor in which to hike, bike, ride, and drive to enjoy diverse cultural and natural resources; and (3) a greenway cooperatively managed for its maximum benefits, primarily in private ownership yet with ample public use areas and trail connections between those areas where feasible.”

As a part of the public process, the following goals were defined for the Commission:

- **To promote the improvement of the natural environment of the corridor.**
- **To promote the improvement of recreational opportunities in the corridor.**
- **To increase public awareness of the corridor as a whole.**
- **To encourage that recreational areas and trails are acquired and developed in the corridor without the use of eminent domain.**
- **To promote the development of a better environmental ethic in the citizens and communities of the corridor.**
- **To promote better cooperation between all of the groups and individuals with and interest in the corridor.**

The public planning meetings created a forum where various and diverse interests were represented and actively participated in identification of regional issues, goals, and action alternatives for the Corridor. This process also affirmed that the corridor plan would be the public’s plan, drafted and revised through the public meeting process.

**The Vision and Need for a Revised Corridor Management Plan**

In 1997, the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission redefined its vision as follows:

*“to help local communities preserve, enhance and interpret for the educational and inspirational benefit the unique and significant natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor; promote public/private partnerships; create a corridor identity; expand a variety of opportunities and linkages; and encourage a broad range of economic development improving the quality of life for present and future generations.*

To further advance this vision, the Commission decided to update the 1993 Corridor Management Plan. This updated plan will continue to serve as a guide to corridor communities and the Commission for achieving their shared vision of the corridor at the local level. It identifies:

- the significant resources within the corridor
- defines strategies that can be taken to conserve and enhance these resources, and
- identifies resource, tools that can be used by local government and organizations as they work to implement some of these strategies.

The Commission once again requested the assistance of NPS to develop and facilitate a public process that solicited input from communities and residents throughout the corridor providing the cornerstone of this plan. Residents, community groups, elected officials at all levels, park officials, regional convention and visitor bureaus, and representatives from state and regional organizations within the Corridor were invited to participate.

Three public meetings were held in each of the three following regions of the corridor: Northern Region – Jay, Adams, Allen, Wells, Huntington, Wabash and Miami Counties; Central Region – Cass, Carroll, Tippecanoe, Warren, Fountain, Vermillion, Park Counties; Southern Region – Vigo, Sullivan, Knox, Gibson, Posey Counties. The first round of meetings focused on the identification of “values”, significant resources, the linkages, and defining the corridor. A second round of meetings identified approaches, strategies, the benefits, and best management practices for resources protection and enhancement. The third round of meetings further identified actions that can be taken, and the resources available to assist with these actions.

Following the public meetings a draft of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Management Plan was prepared by the management plan working group, identified below, and presented for public review and revision before the final plan was released.

**Corridor Management Planning Work Group** - Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Divisions of Outdoor Recreation and Historic Preservation & Archeology, Department of Environmental Management, Department of Commerce – Travel and Tourism, Department of Transportation, IN Land Resources Council Purdue University – School of Landscape Architecture, Banks of the Wabash, National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance

## Values

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**During Public meetings, participants were asked to define what they value about the Wabash River and Wabash River Corridor. These values serve as a guide to the Commission and communities as they define goals and actions for the future.**

- Its free flowing nature
- Meaning to the state
- As a unifying feature in the state, socially and culturally
- How the river shaped the landscape
- The variety of river experiences, sounds urban – rural
- Its small town/rural communities along the river
- Agriculture, productive farmland –best in the state of Indiana
- Drainage, Contribution to flood control
- A clean unpolluted river
- The natural state of the river
- The riparian zone, wetlands and floodplains
- A high quality biological resource
- Nature resource/sanctuary areas
- Its green space
- As a corridor and habitat for wildlife
- A historic migratory pathway for birds/bird watching
- Bald Eagle habitat
- Migratory fish species
- Its flora, native plant diversity Native Pecan, Sycamore trees
- The renewable natural resource
- Connection with nature – changes over the seasons
- The heritage, history of the river,
- Native American History
- Archeological resources
- Historical significance
- Historic economic structures, history of commerce
- The Historic mussel industry and the possibility of it coming back
- The advancement to settlement
- The culture of river life
- Outdoor recreation opportunities
- Parks
- Trails
- River walk opportunities
- Fishing and hunting spots
- River as a water trail
- Quiet Recreational opportunities – Canoeing, secret camping spots
- Public access to river
- A place to swim
- Tourism, attractions/destination
- Festivals (Social Activities)
- Public awareness (marketing of resources) of sites along the river
- The economic development opportunity
- Partnership opportunities
- The river as an educational resource
- Health and safety along the river
- Its scenic quality – along roads and bridges
- A personal refuge from urban sprawl
- Something for all ages – everybody
- The natural beauty
- The health of the river
- Its beauty and solitude
- The sun setting over the Wabash
- A place to watch moon rise

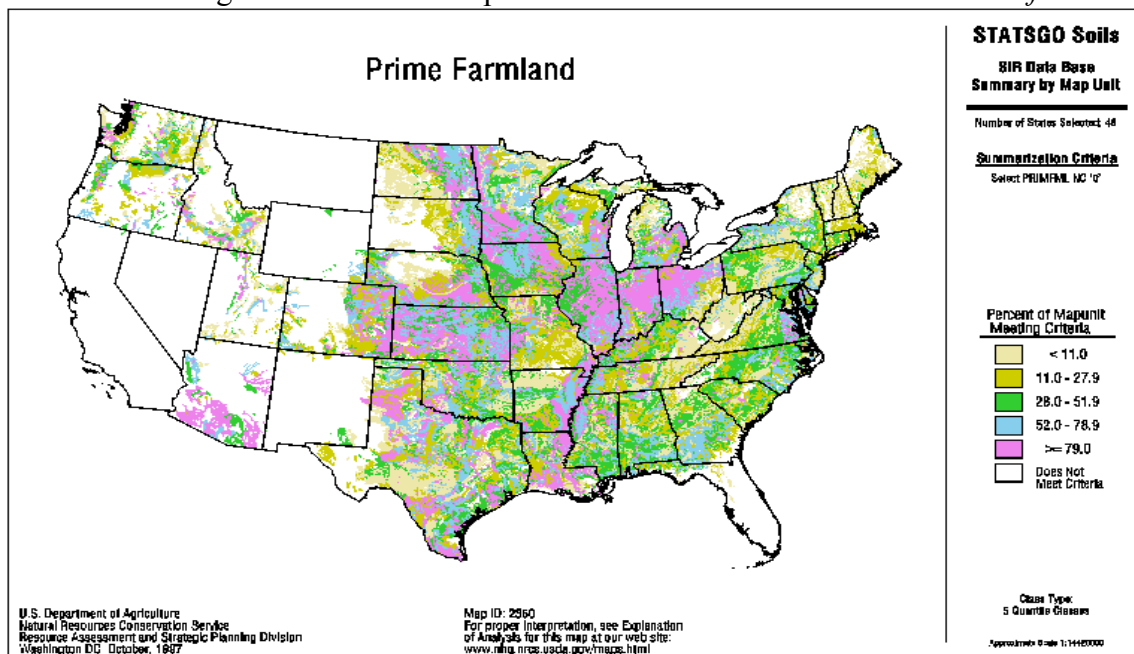
**“Just glad that the river is here”**

## Land Use and Population - Resource Description

**Land Use** – *"The thing about land is, they ain't makin' no more."...Mark Twain*

**The River** - Many consider the Wabash Indiana's most important river, draining *surface water from* two-thirds of the state's 92 counties. Thirty-two miles from its origin in Ohio, the river enters the state in East Central Indiana (Jay County) near the Adams County Line. The Wabash runs 475 miles through Indiana before emptying into the Ohio River below Mt. Vernon serving as the state boundary between Indiana and Illinois from southern Vigo County to the Ohio River in the southwestern part of the state.

Cutting through 19 Indiana counties, much of the Wabash corridor is classified as prime farmland by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service. With Indiana ranking second only to Illinois in the percentage of statewide soils that are classified as prime, the Wabash River runs through some of the most productive farmland soils in the world. *Refer to the map below.*



**Agricultural Heritage and Trends** - Agriculture has been a primary economic driver in Indiana's history. Beyond the economic impact, the state's heritage has been characterized by the influence of farming and the fundamental values that go with making a living off of the land. As our population grows and changes, the impacts will be significant on the nature of the river corridor, and consequently, on our quality of life.

The 19 counties adjacent to the river total just over 5 million acres or 22.1% of the state land base. As reported in the 1997 Natural Resources Inventory, 25% of Indiana's "land in farms," or over 3.7 million acres, was located in this 19-county belt known as the Wabash River Corridor. This represented 12,227 farms or 20.1% of the total number in Indiana. Between 1987 and 1997, the number of farms in the corridor dropped from 14,129 to 12,227, a decrease of 1,902. During the same time period, the farmland acreage dropped by 265,762, from a 1987 total of 4,057,793 acres to 3,792,031 acres. Two counties in the belt, Adams and Miami, gained farmland acreage during the reporting period.

Individually, Parke County contained the most forestland in 1998. Almost 97,000 acres of forestland represented 34% of their land base. The next four counties were:

- 1) Sullivan (22.3%)
- 2) Vermillion (21.96%)
- 3) Posey (21.11%)
- 4) Vigo (20.88%)

On the opposite end of the spectrum, Adams County had the smallest area in forestland with a little over 9,500 acres or 4.4% of their land base. Other counties with small areas of forestland were Knox (6.06%), Wells (7.73%) and Cass (8.55%). Forestland in the remaining counties measured 10% to 17% of their total acreage.

**Corridor People and Communities** - One Hundred Nineteen “Corridor “ communities that were located in the nineteen corridor counties, were identified in the 2000 Census. From Ft. Wayne, (Allen County) with a population of 205,727, to Vera Cruz (Wells County) with a population of 55, a tremendous diversity of communities dots the landscape. Four Metropolitan Statistical Areas included in the corridor, Ft. Wayne, Lafayette, Terre Haute, Evansville-Henderson IN-KY.

The total population in the 19 corridor counties in 2000 was 1,020,865 with Allen County leading (331,849), followed by Tippecanoe (148,955) and Vigo (105,848). The next highest was Cass County with 40,930. On a percentage basis, from 1990 through 2000, Sullivan County had the most rapid growth (14.5%) followed by Tippecanoe (14.1%), Parke (11.9%) and Allen (10.3%). Four counties lost population during the 1990s: Miami (-2.2%), Knox (-1.6%), Wabash (-0.3%) and Vigo (-0.2%). Projections through 2020 show Vigo, Cass and Tippecanoe counties losing population. Population in the corridor is projected to grow a little more than 30,000 people or just over 3%.

**Urban Growth** - A study conducted by the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis (IUPUI) found that between 1985 and 2001, 47,786 acres were converted to urban development. Not surprisingly, Allen County, with Ft. Wayne, developed the most acres (17,778). Adams County (6,543), Tippecanoe County (4,863), Vigo County (2,424), Gibson County (2,373) and Carroll County (2,101) all developed more than 2,000 acres during the 15 years being studied.

**Conclusion** - The Wabash River Corridor faces many of the same challenges as the rest of Indiana and many other parts of the country. Corridor communities must maintain a balance between economic growth and stability while protecting their natural resource base. The corridor represents a tremendous diversity of people, places and ways to make a living. The recent reliance on a manufacturing-based economy in many of the urban areas, and the history of agriculture in the rural areas are facing significant pressures to change.

Increased competition for land previously used for production agriculture, an aging population of farmland owners and fewer young people interested in farming will result in a turnover of land ownership that we have probably not seen before. Wastewater management, in both urban and rural areas, will present huge challenges as local and state officials struggle to protect water quality. The cost of growth, including transportation and other infrastructure, will challenge local leadership to find effective and cost efficient ways to grow. It will take engaged communities seeking a shared vision to lead to a sustainable quality of life for future generations.

## **Land Use – PLAN OF ACTION**

**Action #1** - Preservation of Land – Maintain a balance between built land and natural, encourage environmentally sensitive/sustainable development

**Why/Benefit** – Maintain and enhance the natural diversity of the corridor

**How**

- Active participation in land use decisions at the local level through planning agencies and commission, zoning boards and other agencies and organizations that should be involved in making these decisions.
- Establish and implement guidelines for determining appropriate, resources sensitive development practices

**Action #2** – Restore Natural Landscapes of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor

**Why/Benefit** – Restoration of Wabash River ecosystems and historic settings, improved quality of life

**How**

- Education of communities and residents on benefits
- Federal, State, Local and Private Sector working together to develop priorities and identify/coordinate funding
- Protection of properties through
  - Purchase, Donation, Conservation Easements
  - Incentives to landowners to continue current land use

**Who** – Local planning agencies, Indiana Land Resources Council and other appropriate state agencies, WRHCC, conservation organizations, technical and funding assistance from federal agencies

**Action #3** – Allow intermittent use of land for environmentally sensitive mineral extraction

**Why/Benefit** – Positive economic use of resources, restoration of land to enhance natural resources

**How** Use existing site-specific natural resource guidelines to ensure environmentally sensitive approached to mineral extraction and restoration/rehabilitation of land

**Who:** IDNR Division of Reclamation, local planning agencies, In Mineral Aggregates Association

## **Strategies and Best Management Practices – Case Studies**



**Natural Resource – Resource Description**

**Wabash River Watershed** - Upper Wabash Region - The Wabash River flows from Jay County northwest towards the Little Wabash River near Huntington, continues west meeting the Eel River near Logansport. A large part of the Upper Wabash is shallow and often contains logjams with over 80 % used for agricultural production consisting mainly of row crop and pasture type vegetation. The region of the Wabash River watershed is in the Eastern Corn Belt Plains ecoregion typified by rolling plains, beech/maple vegetation, and soils good for crop production.

The Middle Wabash River region is made up of the Middle Wabash-Deer, Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion and the Middle Wabash-Busseron watersheds. The first section of this region reaches from near Logansport to Lafayette. Deer Creek enters the Wabash just below Delphi. This section of the Wabash, wider but slow moving and highly agricultural with over 90% of the land being used for row crop and pasture, is also in the Eastern Corn Belt Plains ecoregion.

The Middle Wabash -Little Vermillion watershed begins near Lafayette where the Wildcat enters the Wabash River and flows to the Parke-Vigo County border near Clinton. Part of this watershed drains from Illinois. The Vermillion River enters Indiana near Cayuga flowing about 15 miles towards the east before entering the Wabash near Newport. The river at this point is wide, slow moving with several meanders with over 80% of the land in agricultural use. Here there is a transition from the Eastern Corn Belt Plains ecoregion to the Interior River Lowland ecoregion (wide flat-bottomed terraced valleys and dissected glacial till plains). Pasture is more predominant in this area.

The Middle Wabash-Busseron watershed begins near Terre Haute flowing south where forms the Indiana and Illinois border. Busseron Creek in Sullivan County flows for 30 miles before entering the Wabash at Carlisle. This region of the River ends just below Vincennes. This section of the Wabash is in the Interior River Lowland ecoregion with agricultural production accounting for only 70% of the land use in this region.

The Lower Wabash watershed, or the Wabash Lowland, begins below Vincennes continuing for approximately 150 miles before entering the Ohio River at the Indiana-Kentucky-Illinois border. Due to its depth and width it has been an important route for trade for the Midwest. This section of the River is in the Interior River Lowland ecoregion with up to 80% of the land in row crop and pasture use.

**Water Quality** - Water pollution sources are classified as point or nonpoint sources. Point sources of pollution have a known discharge point, such as a pipe or sewer. Here are some examples of typical point sources: municipal sewage treatment; combined sewer overflows; industrial wastewater; and electrical power plants.

Nonpoint source pollution refers to water pollution in runoff. Soil erosion, agriculture, urban runoff, land development and air pollution deposits are some of the sources of polluted runoff. Nonpoint pollution sources are challenging to identify, measure and control. Some examples of typical nonpoint sources: agricultural activities; urban storm water run-off; resource extraction; construction activities; and land disposal (landfills, land application of sewage sludge).

The Indian Department of Environmental Management provides each year a “State of the Environment Report”. This report contains comprehensive surface water assessments for the watershed basins in

Indiana. For complete information on the status of the Wabash Basin, contact IDEM, Office of Water Quality. IDEM's contact information is attached resource manual.

**Natural Areas and Outstanding Rivers and Streams** - In 1993, the Indiana Natural Resources Commission (NRC) adopted its "Outstanding Rivers" list for Indiana. Except where incorporated into statute or rule, the Outstanding Rivers List is intended to provide guidance not regulatory application (NRC 1997). To help identify the rivers and streams that have particular environmental or aesthetic interest, a special listing has been prepared by IDNR's Division of Outdoor Recreation. The NRC has adopted the IDNR listing as an official recognition of the resource values of these waters. A river included in the Outstanding Rivers list qualifies under one of more than 22 categories. Wabash River segments or tributaries are on the Indiana "Outstanding Rivers and Streams include:

- The Little River in Huntington and Allen counties to the confluence of the Wabash.
- Allen and Huntington Counties from the source to the confluence with the Wabash River
- Posey County from the confluence with Higginbotham Ditch to the confluence with the Wabash River.
- The segments in Fountain County from County Road 250 West to the confluence with the Wabash River and County Road 350 West to the confluence with Bear Creek.
- The segments in Warren County of State Road 18 to the confluence with Wabash River, U.S. Highway 41 to the confluence with the Big Pine Creek, the bridge southwest of Green Hill to the confluence with the Wabash River, and State Road 352 to confluence with Bear Creek.
- The Wabash River in Adams, Allen, Carroll, Cass, Fountain, Gibson, Huntington, Jay, Knox, Miami, Parke, Posey, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Warren and Wells. This segment is described as starting at the Indiana/Ohio state line to the point the river enters the Ohio River including the Little River and portage between the Little and Maumee Rivers.

**Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program** - Anyone wishing to discharge pollutants to wetlands or other water bodies through such activities as filling, excavating or mechanical clearing must first receive authorization from the state. The IDEM is responsible for issuing water quality certifications in Indiana. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires any applicant for a federal permit to conduct any activity that may result in a discharge of pollutants to water to first obtain a water quality certification (WQC) from the state.. For more information on this process, contact the Office of Water Quality at IDEM.

**Wellhead Protection Program** - In Indiana 72 percent of the population depend on ground water for their drinking water. Indiana has developed a Wellhead Protection Program which authorizes the state (327 IAC 8-4.1) to establish "protection zones" for community public water supply systems. Steps included in the process are forming a local planning team, delineating protection areas and identifying potential sources of contamination. From these efforts plans can be developed to protect these drinking water sources as well as to develop contingency plans if contamination happens.

**National Pollution Discharge Elimination System** - The State of Indiana's efforts to control the direct discharge of pollutants to waters of the State is governed by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Permits are issued that place limits on the amount of pollutants that may be discharged to waters of the State by each discharger. These levels are set to protect both aquatic life and human health. The State maintains a list of these permits and to what degree the permits are being followed. These permits cover areas such as municipal, industrial operations as well as combined sewer overflows and waste treatment. For more information on a specific area within the Wabash River Basin contact IDEM's Office of Water Quality.

**Special Areas** - Within the Wabash River basin there are several "Special Areas". A full list of these is found in Appedix\_\_ It should be noted that not all of the areas listed are open to the public.

**Endangered, Threatened, or Rare (ETR) Species** - There are several state and federal regulations that govern the ETR. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, through the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center, maintains a list of the Endangered, threatened or Rare (ETR) Species. The list is by county. Before activities are under taken in the Wabash River Basin this office should be contacted first. Since the ETR list is so large a copy is available at the WRHCC office or by contacting the IDNR directly.

**Fish Consumption Advisories** - These advisories are used to help individuals make healthy decisions about fish caught in Indiana waters and contaminant levels that may exist. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) work to create the Indiana Fish Consumption Advisory. Criteria for placing fish on the Indiana Fish Consumption Advisory are developed from the Great Lakes Task Force risk-based approach.

#### **Natural Resources (as identified during public meetings)**

- Hanging Rock Wabash County
- Wabash River
- Limberlost Wetlands
- Wabash State Park
- Sluiceway – Glacial
- Turkey Run State Park
- Salamonie River State Forest
- Blackrock Barrens
- Cypress Sloughs
- Mallod Marsh
- Deam Oak Abroridum
- Antler Park
- Eagles Nesting
- River/Tributaries
- Ciott Park
- Heron Island Rockery
- Seven Pillars
- Williamsport waterfall
- NICHES Preserves
- Geology of river – glacial
- River Islands
- Tippecanoe and Wabash River
- Migratory flyway
- Cypress tree where the Wabash and the White River
- Merom Bluff Park
- Wabash Aquifer
- Natural Resources
- Cypress swamp
- Wild cane and swamp rabbit
- Diversity of wildlife
- 85% of the native trees grow in the lower Wabash valley
- Largest nesting colony of the least tern, Gibson County
- Wabash and Eel Rivers Confluence
- Cedar Island (Cass Co.)
- Three rapids on the river
- Gran Chain
- Mt. Carmel
- New Harmony
- Mile long sand bars
- Hovey Lake
- Buell Wood sitesWildflowers
- France Park
- Peter Weaver Home
- Portland Arch
- William Henry Harrison Trail

**Natural Resources – PLAN OF ACTION****Water Quality – Protection and Enhancement of Riparian Zone**

**Why/benefits** – The reduction of erosion, silt and nutrient loading in the river, protection of the riverbank, improved health of communities, better air quality and wildlife habitat, restored fisheries, and increased economic opportunities through recreational use, tourism and renewable resource harvesting.

**Action #1** – Stabilization of Riverbank**How**

- Encourage use of sediment traps – especially in new construction areas
- Encourage use of existing riverbank conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program
- Grassed zones along river to slow/reduce sediment run-off
- Set back buildings

**Action #2** – Re-establish Riparian Forests and Wetlands along River**How**

- Work with riverside landowners and/or acquire of land through purchase and or easement to reforest river bottomlands.
- Use Wetland Reserve Program , Conservation Reserve Program Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, Bottomlands Hardwood Restoration Program

**Action #3** – Develop and implement setback programs to reduce surface runoff and non-point source pollution**How**

- Provide education to landowners on the value of setbacks
- Assist directly with development of setbacks through existing programs like CRP

**Who** Local land owners and communities, drainage districts/boards, conservation groups, Indiana Farm Bureau, conservancy and levy districts, IDNR, IDEM, US, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) U. S. Army Corps of Engineers,

**Action #4** – Enforce existing regulations regarding point source pollution related to treatment plants and septic systems, explore the need for new regulations.**How**

- Larger storage systems to effluent for treatment
- Development/use of natural systems to treat effluent
- Explore and work with local communities and developers to encourage use of emerging technologies

**Who** – IDEM, Local governments, WRHCC, State/Local Health Depts.

**Action #5** – More Monitoring of and Public Education on River Water Quality**How**

- Expand use of Riverwatch, Adopt-a-River and Project Wet
- Facilitate the timely exchange of river monitoring and other water quality information between local and state agencies and organizations – Quarterly reports on monitoring results to and from local agencies
- Development of public information programs that provides quick and easy access to water quality information
  - Public information/education on importance of storm water run-off
  - Creation of local coalitions of water quality advocates
- Development of education curriculum that provides opportunity for students to learn while actively being on the river.

**Who** – Local landowners and communities, local and state school boards/districts, regional and state colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, WRHCC, IDNR, IDEM

**Action #6** – Identify Opportunities for Preservation of Large Regional Natural Areas

**Why/benefits** – Improved water quality, enhanced wildlife habitat, increased recreational opportunities

**How**

- Education of landowners, political leaders on importance of enhancing natural areas within the corridor.
- Work directly with corridor landowners assisting them in preservation, enhancement/restoration of their lands as natural areas/habitat
- Work with local communities to identify opportunities for the acquisition of land through fee or easement to restore as natural areas.

**Who** - Local landowners, local, state and federal government and agencies such as WRHCC, IDNR, IDEM, USFWS, USACE, conservation and land trust organizations

**Action #7** – Fish Stocking and Wildlife Re-introduction in/along the Wabash River

**Why/benefits** – Re-establish natural balance through and increased wildlife population diversity and stability

**Who** – IDNR, RC& D's, conservation organizations

**HISTORIC RESOURCES – Historical Overview**

The Wabash River Heritage Corridor encompasses a vast and diverse collection of historical and cultural resources, in addition to its natural beauty and recreational diversions.

Thousands of years ago, Native Americans, who may have been the forefathers of the midwestern tribes, occupied the Wabash Valley. Little is known about these early peoples and why they disappeared. More is known of the Eastern Woodland native peoples of Indiana and the Wabash Valley through archaeological sites, such as Bone Bank and the Mann Site. Early Peoples of Indiana include Paleoindians (through 8000 BC), Archaic tradition (8000 to 1000 BC), Woodland tradition (1000 BC to 1000 AD), and the Mississippian tradition (1000 to 1650 AD).

For 200 years bands of the Miami occupied the Valley as other tribes, including the Potawatomi, Delaware, and Shawnee were pushed west due to European invasion and settlement. The Miamis were Woodland Natives living in wigwams, huts constructed of tree branches and covered with rush or bark mats. They occasionally used horses for transportation, but more often walked distances, using the waterways of the Wabash, Mississinewa, Eel, Salamonie, and Maumee for long distance travel. They hunted for deer and other game, fished, but they also farmed corn, squash, and beans, and gathered other nuts and fruits. In 1751, the great Miami war chief Little Turtle was born. When he was around 30 years old, he defeated Auguste de La Balme who had attacked Kekionga, at what is now Fort Wayne in Allen County. After an honored life, Little Turtle died in 1812 and was buried in present day Allen County. Archaeologists continue to survey, investigate, and study the village and burial sites, and artifacts of the native peoples of Indiana and the Wabash Valley.

In the seventeenth century, European explorers, traders, and settlers began moving into Indiana. These were British, French, and Dutch who clashed over the land. When the British won the French and Indian War, their dominance in the area was secured, but the French influence can still be seen throughout the Wabash Valley, and particularly in Vincennes and Lafayette.

After the American Revolution, the new nation expanded into the Northwest Territory, which included Indiana. Several forts and territorial sites remain from the pre-statehood period. Then, in 1816, Indiana became the nineteenth state.

Transportation expansion contributed to the development of Indiana, particularly systems of canals. In 1823, Governor Hendricks recommended a Wabash/Maumee Canal to the Indiana General Assembly. Political and geographic conflicts and funding problems continually plagued the project, but between 1843 and 1853 the canal was a huge success. Cities and towns along the route grew very quickly due to increased travel and commerce. Allen, Huntington, Wabash, Miami, Cass, Carroll and Tippecanoe Counties owe much of their early success and growth to the Wabash & Erie Canal. Commercial districts and residential neighborhoods grew up along the canal, and other transportation routes, including the railroads. Industrial and manufacturing facilities were also built to provide products locally and across the growing nation, as commercial traffic expanded.

As the Irishmen worked on the canal, other immigrants and Americans from the East and South also moved into Indiana and the Wabash Valley. They brought with them their religious traditions, cultural organizations, recreational pursuits, and educational values. These are reflected in historical churches, fraternal lodges, parks, and schools. Agriculture and farming continued to be the most significant aspect of Indiana life and many farmsteads have been passed from generation to generation within families.

Other ethnicities also saw opportunity in Indiana, including African Americans. During the early to mid-1800s, many African Americans enslaved in the Southern States became fugitives in search of freedom, coming through Indiana and along the Wabash River on the Underground Railroad. Some settled in Indiana, a free state, founding farms and agricultural communities or finding work in Indiana's cities and towns.

In the 1900s, Indiana's cities and towns grew, especially with wartime manufacturing opportunities. New industries and technologies, particularly automobile, iron, and steel, among other factories, also provided economic growth and opportunity. New forms of transportation provided never-before-known mobility within and between communities and states. Interstate highways helped make the Hoosier state the Crossroads of America.

Political and cultural changes accompanied the urbanization of Indiana in the twentieth century. Depression, world wars, women's and minority rights movements had an impact in many communities. Music, movies, television, and sports have become a significant part of Hoosier's recreational and cultural interests. All of these trends are traced in many of the historic resources of the recent past in our towns, cities, and counties—especially those along the Wabash River.

Meanwhile, Indiana continues to grow and diversify. The faces, voices and culture of Hoosiers represent nationalities, languages and traditions from literally all over the world. Twenty-first century Hoosiers are rediscovering the history and heritage of Indiana and the Wabash River Heritage Corridor and learning about the Native Americans, European explorers, and American frontierspeople who occupied this area years ago. We are also learning to preserve, protect, and appreciate the resources they left behind that give us our spirit and sense of place in Indiana and in the Wabash Valley.

### **Historic and Cultural Resources Types and Threats**

*Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites and Resources:* Prehistoric artifacts and features, Native American in origin, date to a time before recorded history in Indiana, ca. 10,000 BC to 1650 AD. Prehistoric site types common in Indiana include: campsites, villages, mounds, chert quarries, cemeteries, artifact caches, tool manufacturing areas, food processing and gathering areas, hunting and butchering sites, lithic scatters, and isolated artifact finds. Historic artifacts and features in Indiana date after this time and refer to peoples of many ethnic and cultural backgrounds. These include Native Americans and many people of Old World cultural backgrounds that settled and populated the region. Historical site types found in Indiana include refuse heaps and/or dumps, old homesteads and farmsteads, forts, battlefields, cemeteries, quarries, garden/field plots, historic Indian villages, earthworks, parks and cultural landscapes, trails and transportation routes, mills, towns, historic neighborhoods and residences, mines, industrial and business sites and more. Threats to these resources include, but are not limited to, looting, sand and gravel mining, development and sprawl, and a lack of knowledge of laws that protect archaeological sites.

*Early Settlement and Territorial Resources:* These include early homesteads and log cabins, as well as other resources from before statehood (1816) to approximately 1850. Many settlement resources have already been dismantled or were incorporated into newer buildings, however some do remain. One example is the Brouillet House in the Vincennes Historic District, which represents the French Colonial period.

*Ethnic Heritage and Resources:* This includes French colonists who settled in the Northwest territory, as well as African American heritage, and later ethnic groups such as German immigrants who have had a strong influence in Indiana. French colonial sites are few, but important to the territorial history

of the state. African American resources have been largely overlooked until recent years. Separate African American neighborhoods, cultural and religious institutions, and segregated facilities like schools, are important to understanding the experience of blacks in Indiana. Underground Railroad-related resources are becoming more important to preserve. Indifference and changing social customs, migration and changes in demography and population and economic viability, insensitive development, and demolition threaten these ethnic historic resources.

*Rural and Agricultural Resources:* The early 20<sup>th</sup> century was the Golden Era of Agriculture in Indiana, as demand for products and farm prices increased, farmers expanded and modernized family farms. Vernacular homesteads gave way to Queen Anne and bungalow style homes and larger gambrel-roof or round or polygonal barns became standard farm buildings. Other outbuildings such as chicken coops, hog sheds, milk houses, summer kitchens, smoke houses, fruit cellars, corn cribs, tool sheds, and livestock or dairy barns represented the variety of specialized structures required for an Indiana farm that was self-sufficient and diversified in agricultural practices. As farms become less diversified, these buildings suffer from neglect and weather. Larger farm equipment no longer fits into historic barn types, and newer buildings replace the old. While neglect and lack of usability contributes to the demolition of agricultural resources, rural areas are themselves under threat from continued sprawl and urban development, particularly near metropolitan areas.

*Bridges:* Roads in early Indiana were not more than dirt trails, and crossing rivers meant doing so by fords or ferries, at your own risk. In the mid-1800s, local authorities were able to begin building bridges constructed by local craftsmen from local timber covered with wooden siding for protection from the elements. Railroad development required iron trusses to provide necessary support and fire resistance to the sparks of coal-burning locomotives. By the late 1880s, iron bridges began to appear more and more frequently, and often replaced wooden ones. In the 1910s and 1920s automobile traffic spurred development of concrete bridges. Today, bridges of all types are endangered in Indiana. Timber and metal bridges on lightly traveled country roads can often be moved and rehabilitated when replacement is necessary. The quaint-ness of covered bridges in particular contributes to their preservation as tourist attractions. Metal and concrete bridges continue to face demolition and replacement. Iron bridges are threatened mainly by county commissioners and highway departments and local concern over weight loads. Wider farm machinery, taller and heavier trucks, and increased loads also threaten to cause damage to historic bridges and compromise their integrity. Road widening projects also threaten concrete bridges, though most are quite sound. Contrary to popular opinion, rehabilitation and general maintenance are often less expensive than replacement.

*Transportation Related Resources:* Transportation in Indiana changed throughout the nineteenth century, from primitive trails and roads to canals to railroads and to modern highways. The National Road was completed in piecemeal fashion through Indiana in 1839. The Mammoth Internal Improvement Act of 1836 began the process of building three canal systems: the Wabash & Erie, the Whitewater, and the Central Canals. The impact of these canals reached beyond the canal beds, locks, and viaducts. Canals gave towns like Lafayette their first economic foothold, and many buildings in canal communities reflected the canal prosperity. The rise of the railroads gave farmers and merchants access to outside markets. Rail access focused on depots, which in turn fostered downtown development and corollary interurban rail systems. Extant depots still remain throughout the state.

*Commercial and Residential Historic Districts:* As the state, and Wabash River Valley, developed more towns and cities were established and settled. Commercial areas and downtown city centers with city halls, courthouses, stores, banks, shops, libraries, social institutions, fraternal lodges, churches, and community opera houses provided people with necessary offices, goods and services, as well as recreational and social options. Residential areas with both vernacular and high style architecture grew



out from the city centers to become neighborhoods dotted with schools and parks. As sprawl moves further out from the historic downtown and early residential neighborhoods, these areas suffer from vacancy and neglect. Without economically viable downtowns and owner-occupied residential neighborhoods, these historic resources decline leaving many of Indiana's historic cities and towns empty-- tearing down not only our past, but also the environment that provides a unique sense of place.

### **Historic Resources (as identified during public meetings)**

- Portage in Allen County
- Interurban remains
- Aboite Creek Aqueduct
- Canal Aqueduct over St. Mary's
- Chopin Indian Reserve
- Aboite Creek Massacre site
- Vermilyea House Tavern
- Locks in Lagro
- Historic Forks in Wabash
- Limberlost
- Ceylon covered bridge over Wabash River
- Historic Rangeline Bridge crosses Wabash and joins the Historic Forks of the Wabash
- Wabash Cannonball Railroad
- Paradise springs – Wabash
- Circus winter quarters
- Wabash -first city wired for electricity
- Toll house – Peru
- Depot - Peru
- Wabash and Erie Canal
- Battleground Museum
- Fort Quiaenon
- River/Tributaries
- Prophetstown
- New Harmony
- Bridges
- Freedom Trail/Underground Railroad
- County courthouses
- Potowatomi Trail of Death
- Fort Harrison
- Indiana Soldiers Home
- Burnett's Creek – Carroll County
- Adams Mill
- Historic District
- Ernie Pyle
- Miami Headquarters
- New Baltimore
- Historic Ferry landing - Poley
- River view ferry landing
- Merom College
- St. Francis
- Old cathedral
- Myra Creek chapel
- Vincennes Historic Sites
- Merom Conference Center
- George Rogers Clark Memorial
- Grouseland
- Crawleyville (Town bridge/fishing)
- Underground railway (Lyle Station)
- Azatlan Native American fort
- Covered bridge in southern Gibson
- Vincennes Historic District
- Vincennes University
- Buffalo traces
- IL basin discovery well, Oil field
- Natural Locks on the Wabash Knox County
- Shaker community
- Pointe coupee
- Wabash Cannonball Bridge
- Lincoln Memorial Bridge
- Bone Bank archeological
- Mann Site archeological
- Chief Richardville House (Fort Wayne)
- Richardville-Lafontaine House, Huntington
- Paul Dresser Birthplace
- Old Fort Wayne City Hall
- Historic Schools
- Quabache Park
- Harmonie State Park
- Salamonie State Forest
- Indiana Territory State Historic Site
- Historic Schools
- Carnegie/Historic Libraries
- Social Welfare Institutions/County Homes
- Historic Theaters/Opera Houses
- Fraternal Lodges
- Rural landscapes
- Agricultural/Farm resources
- Commercial buildings/districts

## **Historic Resources – PLAN OF ACTION**

**Action #1**- Conduct a Historic Resource Inventory of Corridor Resource and Nominate Eligible Properties for National Register designations within the Corridor

**Why/benefits** –Identification/recognition of significant historic resource that leads to stewardship and preservation/restoration efforts

**How** - Determine/collect past inventories, identify areas needing further inventory, draft National Register Nominations for submittal – engage local historic societies in inventory and documentation

*\* Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventories have been conducted for every Wabash River Corridor County except Adams, Allen (Fort Wayne City Survey available) and Warren. The DHPA Historic Indiana publication provides information on all properties listed on the National and State Register in Indiana*

**Action #2** – Develop Prioritized List Historic/Cultural Resources that are Threatened for Focused Preservation Effort, by County. (Consider historic bridges, especially those with and within vistas of the river a high priority)

**Why/Benefits** – Prioritized list will allow focus on resources most in need

**How** As part of inventory proposed in above action, determine significance and condition of resources to determine priority for funding

**Action #3** – Identify long term funding opportunities historic preservation along corridor that may include low interest loans, Historic Preservation Fund, Transportation Enhancements, WRHC Fund, Hometown Indiana/Build Indiana Fund, Tax Incentive Programs.

**Who** - local government, corridor communities and residents, nonprofits organizations, local historical societies, colleges and universities volunteers, IDNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology (DHPA), Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (HLFI), InDOT, National Park Service and appropriate federal agencies

## **Strategies/Incentives and Best Practices for Historic Preservation**

How can we contribute to the protection, preservation, and revitalization of these unique and significant resources? Often, funding is the primary obstacle. There are several programs of financial incentives for historic preservation in Indiana. Grants and tax credits are available through the State Historic Preservation Office located within DHPA, Indiana Department of Transportation, and the Indiana Department of Commerce.

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for establishing standards for all national preservation programs under Departmental authority and for advising federal agencies on the preservation of historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* cover acquisition, protection, stabilization, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. **Details on these programs are found in the Resource Manual Section of this plan.**

## **Historic Preservation Successes in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor**

**Rockhill-Tyler House, Fort Wayne.** In 1998, ARCH, Inc. received \$49,935 of Hometown Indiana grant funding to begin rehabilitation of the c. 1840 Rockhill-Tyler house. The state grant repaired the masonry, fieldstone foundation, replaced the wood shingle roof, and restored the façade to its original

configuration. In 2001, ARCH, Inc. received \$44,052 in HPF funds to restore the interior of the house, including plaster, molding, trim, mantelpieces, baseboards, and the staircase, among other work activities. ARCH, Inc. plans to use the restored house for public and school tours to interpret the development of the West Central neighborhood, Fort Wayne's Canal Era and internal improvement campaigns, and early home construction techniques.

**Lawrie Library, Lafayette.** In 1895, the State of Indiana constructed the Indiana State Soldier's Home overlooking the Wabash River in Lafayette. While a resident, Alexander Lawrie painted 167 portraits of Revolutionary and Civil War heroes. The Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation has initiated a project to restore the paintings and to stabilize and rehabilitate the Lawrie Library constructed between 1895-1896, to house the collection. The building has been unoccupied since 1980 and is in danger of collapse from serious neglect. A \$130,000 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Grant provided for the emergency stabilization of the Lawrie Library.

**McGrady-Brockman House, Vincennes.** The Knox County Public Library received a 2001 HPF grant for \$30,000 to replace the roof on the 1859 C.P. McGrady House in Vincennes. The Gothic Revival style house was bought to use as a research center for the libraries extensive historical and genealogical records. The grant funds enabled the removal of the asphalt shingle roof and replacement with a new metal roof. The library has completed the interior restoration of the first floor, and plans to continue to rehabilitate the building according to appropriate preservation methods. Located in the downtown historic district, this project will contribute to the revitalization of the area.

**Paul Dresser Birthplace, Terre Haute.** Paul Dresser is an important figure in state and national music history, and he is best known for composing the state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash." The house was built in the 1850s and stands about 225 yards from the Wabash River. The Vigo County Historical Society received a \$55,000 grant from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund in 2000 to rehabilitate the exterior and interior of the house. Exterior work included masonry rehabilitation, replacement of vinyl siding with a sympathetic wood siding, installation of replicas of original shutters, historically-sympathetic replacement of an inappropriate exterior stairway accessing the second floor, and replacement of the front door and porch posts and brackets with a replicas based on photographic documentation. Interior work included plaster patching and repair, and replacement of approximately 168 square feet of plywood flooring with a historically appropriate pine floor. A HVAC unit was installed to provide climate control for the house and the artifacts on display.

**Bone Bank Archaeological Site, Posey County.** Historically, Bone Bank was an important navigational landmark of the Wabash River in Posey County, thus earning its name. Erosion and the movement of the Wabash River have largely destroyed this once extensive archaeological site. What remains is still being eroded away. This is clearly one of the most endangered archaeological sites in the state. A \$100,000 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund grant funded an archaeological excavation of the remaining portion of this site, including artifact analysis and curation, and a field report.

**"Harmony on the Wabash Exhibit," New Harmony.** The Workingmen's Institute, which was established in New Harmony in 1838, received a \$55,000 grant from the Wabash Heritage Corridor Fund in 2000 to design and fabricate an exhibit using text panels, graphics, and artifacts that tell the story of the Wabash River and New Harmony. The exhibit is housed in the Institute's 1894 building and its design replicates the steamboats that once traveled parts of the Wabash River. The exhibit also features original murals and a film on the Wabash River.

## **Recreation Resources - Overview**

Today, the Wabash River corridor is a popular leisure time destination. If you go back in time 150 years ago, you would see a much different use. Among other commercial uses, people used the Wabash River and the associated Wabash & Erie Canal as the largest highway in the state. There were numerous boats on the river and canal that were primarily used for transportation and work. Over time, trains, trucks and automobiles made using the river for shipping of goods all but obsolete. More and more, the Wabash River corridor is being looked at as a place for environmental preservation, aesthetic revitalization of communities, and providing recreational opportunities.

With over 400 miles of dam-free waterway, the Wabash River is a boater and fisherman's paradise. Some of the historical ferries and launch areas are still in use today, converted to concrete boat ramps to allow easy access to the river. There are over \_\_\_ number of public access sites that enable both powered and non-powered boats to navigate the Wabash. The Wabash River is determined to be legally navigable from the Adams/Wells county line all the way to the Ohio River. Most of the land adjoining the Wabash River is privately owned, but by being legally navigable, the public has the right to traverse the surface of the water and the underlying bed of the river.

Either from a boat or the bank, fishing is extremely popular in the Wabash River corridor. The same sites that allow boaters to access the river make for excellent public fishing sites. Many of the properties were purchased and built by the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife using federal money collected from the sale of sporting goods. A map of these access sites is included in appendix \_\_\_. The Wabash River Guidebook by Jerry Hay is a useful resource for boating and fishing along the Wabash River. Information on how to order a copy of the Wabash River Guidebook is included in appendix \_\_\_.

Recreational use of the Wabash River extends to the banks and the riparian corridor at numerous locations. There are 26 public parks and recreation areas along the river totaling nearly 5400 acres. If you add in historic sites, access sites, and other facilities, the number of areas the public can enjoy jumps to over 60 and covers 8500 acres. There are two state parks and one state recreation area on the Wabash River, with a new 3000-acre state park being developed along the river in Tippecanoe County. A map of the recreation areas is included in appendix \_\_\_.

Trails are becoming increasingly popular in the Wabash River corridor. The Wabash Heritage Trail in Tippecanoe County showcases the beauty of the corridor with a trail that follows 12 miles of the Wabash River and its tributaries. The trail in Tippecanoe County will be extended over 5 miles as the new Propettstown State Park is developed. A trail has also been developed between the city of Bluffton and Ouabache State Park in Wells County. Numerous other communities have completed and/or are planning trail projects along the Wabash River, the Little River, or the Wabash & Erie Canal. Some of these communities include Huntington, Wabash, Peru, Logansport, Delphi, Covington, Clinton, Terre Haute and Vincennes. Trails crossings of the Wabash River along former railroad corridors are also planned in Miami County and Posey County. Many of the trails that are completed or currently under development were listed as goals in the 1993 management plan for the Wabash River Heritage Corridor.

Recreation opportunities result in numerous benefits to both individuals and communities. Individual health benefits are realized by providing opportunities for people to enjoy more active lifestyles. A recent study on trail use in Indiana found that the primary reason for using trails was for health/exercise and that availability of the trail increased individual trail users' activity by up to 87%.

Health benefits derived from recreational activities could be instrumental in trying to offset the documented trend toward obesity by Indiana residents.

Economic benefits from recreation can also be significant. Goods and services purchased by individuals for recreation activities directly generate revenue for local communities. It has also been documented that businesses look closely at available park and recreation opportunities when making decisions to locate in a community.

### **Recreational Resources (as identified during public meetings)**

- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Boat ramps, River Access
- Crew races
- Picnic and camping
- Hiking
- Reservoirs Huntington Mississinewa and Salamonie
- Fox Island County Park
- Hunting and fishing north of Huntington Reservoirs
- Bluffton River Greenway
- Limberlost Wetlands Rain bottoms
- Canoe along river from Portage to “forks”
- Johnny Appleseed plantings along the river
- Paradise springs Wabash
- Kehoe Park amphitheater
- Huntington Mountain bike trail
- Mascouton Park
- Davis ferry
- Parks – Ross Hills and camps French Post Park
- Little Turtle Waterway
- Kimmel park
- Fairbanks Park, Terre Haute
- Ouabache Park
- Little River Portage Greenway
- Closed highway roadside parks

### **Recreation – PLAN OF ACTION**

#### **Action #1** – Acquire/develop More Recreation Areas and Opportunities

**Why/benefits** – Increase family leisure and physical activity opportunities, more facilities for sports

**How**

- Turn “brownfields” into recreational sites
- Evaluate current use of recreational facilities to identify needs
- Purchase property/easements and develop recreational facilities
- Explore and develop commercial recreational opportunities

**Who** – Cooperative effort between local, state and federal government, nonprofits and volunteers

#### **Action #2** – Promote and Enhance Hunting Opportunities

**Why/benefit** – Meets a public need, potential economic benefits,

**How**

- Identify and promote areas through publications/web site
- Identify sites for additional hunting opportunities
- Develop educational materials on safe participation

**Who** Local landowners, local government, IDNR, conservation organizations, private sector equipment providers

**Action #3** – Promote and Enhance Birding Opportunities in the Corridor

**Why/benefit** – Public appreciation of the corridor, enhanced natural habitat, economic benefit potential through tourism

**How**

- Identify and promote through publications and web sites birding sites, species lists and migration routes
- Identify additional sites that may be made available to public working with corridor landowners.

**Who** – Local landowners and communities, nonprofit organizations such as the Audubon Society, IDNR, IN Dept. of Travel and Tourism

## **Corridor Connections and Linkages**

Historically the Wabash River was a transportation route and link for people and communities along its banks. Today, residents and visitors can best understand the significant resources and stories of the Wabash by moving along it. This section of the Corridor Management Plan will identify current and future linkages, both physical and thematic, that will allow all to learn from and enjoy the Wabash River Heritage Corridor.

### **Corridor Trail Linkages – The list below identifies both existing trail links and future opportunities**

- River Valley
- River Tributaries
- Existing levees
- On shared road routes
- Railroad – right of way where viable
- Wildlife/Habitat Corridors
- Wabash Valley Route (Bike trail)
- Interurban – Ft. Wayne to Forks
- Tipp. To Logansport
- Portage to St. Mary's to Little River
- Wabash Heritage Trail
- Delphi Historic Trails
- Little Turtle Waterway to France Park
- Prophetstown trails
- Linkages between Tippecanoe trails and Carroll County
- Town and railroads corridors and wildlife trails
- Posey Trail
- Migratory Wildlife
- Old Highway Rest stops (Access points)
- State parks

### **Trail Linkages – Trails – PLAN OF ACTION**

#### **Action #1** – Develop Trail Connections Along River Linking Corridor Communities.

**Why/Benefits** –To provide alternative transportation and touring opportunities for corridor residents and visitors, increase family leisure and physical activity/health opportunities, spiritual renewal, potential economic benefits through the development of support business such as bike shops, restaurants, etc.

**How** - Work with landowners and local communities to develop community trails that will link their community to the river and to other corridor communities

- Provide education to landowners and local government on the value of trails
- Assist with defining routes for trails and strategies for construction and operations.
- Identify funding resources

**Who** Local landowners, parks and highway departments, nonprofit organizations, community organizations, volunteers, IDNR, InDOT, NPS

**River/Watertrail Linkages**

- Various access points, boat ramps
- Amenities Overnight Canoe camps
- Riparian – wildlife corridor (Boarders and buffers)

**Watertrail Linkages– PLAN OF ACTION**

**Action #1** – Increase Access to Wabash River for Recreational Use, Boating, Fishing, Enjoyment of the River, Increase Overnight Facilities.

**Why/Benefits** – Access to river results in appreciation and awareness of resource and an increase in family leisure opportunities

**How**

- Inventory current access sites/opportunities to determine needs
- Acquire property/easements to allow additional access
- Develop safe facilities, portage sites

**Who** – Cooperative effort of local landowners, local, state and federal governments, nonprofits, land trusts and volunteers

- Possible funding sources, IDNR Grants, WRHC Fund,

**Action #2** – Enhance Navigation of River, Temporary Retention of Water – Lower Wabash

**Why/benefit** – Maintain water levels necessary for navigation of river

**How** Development of wicket (lock) systems similar to those used on Ohio River

**Who** IDNR, Illinois DNR, US. Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service



**Corridor Scenic Byways Linkages - Overview**

“Roads no longer merely lead to places; they are places.” John Brinckerhoff Jackson

As long as there have been roads that people have traveled there have been scenic byways and vistas. How people manage and care for these byways and how the byways can serve as an economic development tool has changed.

The National Scenic Byway program, created in 1991, has taken the term scenic byway to a new level by developing a process whereby a road, or series of roads, can become state or nationally designated as a best of the best of the nation’s roadways. Most byway organizations look to tourism as the catalyst for economic development and work to attract people to travel their byway, spend the night in their lodging facilities, eat at local restaurants, stop to shop, and visit attractions along the way.

The process that has been developed doesn’t just identify roads with pretty views that are politically designated. This process allows the local communities to determine and plan for the byway’s future, for the expected travelers, residents and the significant resources along the road that lead to recognition and designation. This is a grass-roots effort. State and federal officials are available for technical support but the people who participate in organizing and planning their byway’s future are the ones who hold the reins in determining the roadway’s impact on the communities along the route.

The National Scenic Byway program also has money available for a variety of eligible byway activities that are allocated in a competitive, merit-based application process.

Part of the national designation process is the development of a Corridor Management Plan (CMP). Developed by stakeholders along the byway, the CMP is the plan for the protection, enhancement and promotion of their road. It allows the people who live and work along the road to meet, develop relationships, and collaborate on envisioning a plan for the future of the byway. The byway may be historic in nature, allow the traveler to experience a culture, or show off the scenic beauty along a river. The process recognizes six intrinsic values that are eligible for designation consideration: archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic.

At the time of this writing, Indiana has two nationally designated Scenic Byways: the Ohio River Scenic Byway (with collaborative marketing and planning in three states) and the All-American Road (highest national designation), and the Historic National Road (with collaborative efforts in six states). Three other byways are under review for state scenic byway status and possibly, in the future, national status. State byway designation follows the same requirements as the national program but does not require a CMP.

The Wabash River corridor is in a unique position to take advantage of this program. The best way to see and enjoy the river is, of course, from the middle of the river. But that is not the most practical solution for most visitors. Their view is from the roads that run along the river. By identifying the roads that run alongside the river you make it easy for visitors to learn, see, and enjoy the river. By identifying and implementing a plan for development, protection and promotion you make the product sustainable.

**Roadways/Scenic Byways – Route for Consideration**

- Old US 24
- Redding Drive – Allen County
- River Road – Bluffton
- Oak Road – Bluffton
- River Road – Huntington to Andrews
- County Line Road between Adams and Jay County
- Mayne Road – Huntington
- West McKeaver – Andrews to Wabash (Baldon – Schmalzried)
- SR 43 South River Road, North Road
- Pretty Prairie Road
- Tow Path Road – Fountain and Carroll County
- Bridges (Historic)
- River Road between Greenhill and Independence to US 41
- SR 263 Warren County
- Terre Haute to Merom Bluff - State 63
- Out of Merom State 58
- South 6<sup>th</sup> Street to West Canon Ball Bridge
- Bluff Road in Merom
- Old Stagecoach route Vincennes to Terre Haute
- Mt. Veron SR 62, SR 69
- New Harmony SR 66
- I - 64
- Indiana 64 to Mt. Carmel
- County roads that get close to the river
- IL side IL 33 Hutsonville to Vincennes
- Old river Rd. Mt. Carmel Old 64 to I 64
- Old River Rd. Merom to State 154

**Scenic Byways Linkages — PLAN OF ACTION****Action #1** - Establishment of designated byways

Smaller idea – identify historic or scenic driving tours of county

**Why/benefits** Provides public access to and along river linking corridor communities, potential economic benefits through packaging existing and development of new tourism opportunities and increased tourism

**How** Bringing appropriate players at the local level to determine best routes using existing roads. Each county cares for their route

**Who** INDOT, IN Div. of Travel Tourism, WRHC Commission, NS Byways, FHWA, local/regional tourism bureaus, local government, community organizations.

**Action #2** - Directional/ identification signs for scenic byways along river.

**Why/benefits** Creates identity, commonality of design. Provides route information, promotes use of byway, shares stories of resources.

**How** Develop signs, identification, directional and interpretive signs to tell the story. Driving brochures to complement.

- Resources/funding possibilities - Enhancements WRHC Commissioners and Fund, regional/local visitor's bureaus, County Economic Development and Foundations

**Who** local governments including highway/roads departments, Local Tourism, IN Div. Of Travel and Tourism, WRHC Commission, IDNR, INDOT

**Case Study** – Tippecanoe Co. effort ?

## **Thematic Connections – Stories connecting the Wabash River Heritage Corridor –**

“Interpretation is not, of course, the reason for a park’s being. But for the vast majority of people, a visit to a park without interpretation would be a less complete thing. Good interpretation contributes mightily to visitor enjoyment and understanding and, through that understanding, to the preservation of park resources be they cultural or natural.”

Andy Ketterson, retired NPS Cultural Resource Mgr.

### **Overview**

The interpretation or telling of the stories and the heritage of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor is an important tool for both management and marketing. It provides the inspiration to conserve significant resources, promote resource sensitive development, create physical linkages, and encourage tourism. Interpretation provides the framework to link the diverse yet, interrelated resources and themes of the corridor, creating an awareness, understanding and appreciation of them. It helps to build a constituency of informed, enthusiastic supporters, residents and visitors that become active participants in the protection of the corridor.

A holistic approach to interpretation creates a Corridor identity and standards for interpretive media while tying together the individual themes and stories. It creates a common path, an image from which all corridor communities can work together to develop gateway and community visitor centers, publications and brochures, wayside exhibits and kiosks, and other interpretive tools. An image that says to visitor and resident that they are in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor and it’s great to be here!

### **Thematic Linkages (identified during the public meetings)**

- Native American history
- European settlement
- Fur trade
  - Francis Slocum (fur trade)
- American Expansion
- Old Forts on the river - military history
- George Rogers Clark Trail
- Transportation History through time
- Canals Wabash
- River Ports flat boats and steamboats - transportation on the river
- River town development
- River houses
- Old ferry crossings
- Early Commerce
- Float timber on the Wabash to the sawmill - commerce
- Mills development and impacts
- Underground railroad
- Market hunting - Trapping and hunting past and present
- Aquaculture - Commercial fishing, Mussels, Mother of Pearl
- State Bankruptcy
- Interurban
- William Henry Harrison
- Tecumsha/Prophet
- James Witcom Riley
- Gene Straton Porter – Geneva
- Cultural – Music
- Speak easy – saloons
- Glacial History of the River
- Geological linkage
- White/Clean Water
- Swamp Areas
- Wildlife Migratory linkages
- Reintroduction of endangered species - Wildlife management
- Private Land
- Farmland - Agricultural changes
- Grassroots groups and connections
- Universities along the river
- Mining
- Immigration

## **Interpretation - Education – PLAN OF ACTION**

**Why/benefits** - Creates community awareness and pride resulting in increased preservation efforts, provides clearinghouse for information, potential for economic benefits through tourism

### **Action #1** – Create an Image to Connect and Interpret Significant Resources

**How** Develop a common design approach that establishes a heritage corridor identity to use in interpretive signage, brochures and other to interpret resources within communities

**Who** Local community government and organizations such as historical societies, convention and visitor's bureaus, IDNR – Historic Preservation, IN Div. Of Travel and Tourism

### **Action #2** – Develop a Wabash River Heritage Center That Would Introduce/Interpret that Significance of the Wabash River and Heritage Corridor and Serve as a Central Repository/Records Center for Wabash Studies.

**How** – Develop working group to determine location, project scope, partners, funding sources

**Who** Local community government and organizations such as historical societies, conservation groups, IDNR, IN Div. Of Travel and Tourism, IDEM, HLI, ICH, state and regional colleges

### **Action #3** – Develop Regional Wabash River Heritage Centers that Focus on Local/Regional Themes and Stories but Ties into the Story/Resources of the Heritage Corridor (as exemplified by the W & E Canal Museum in Delphi)

**How** – Determine/select themes and stories and determine where best along the Heritage Corridor to interpret them

- Work at local level to develop, market and promote centers

**Who** Local community government and organizations such as historical societies, conservation groups, IDNR, IN Div. Of Travel and Tourism, IDEM, HLI, ICH, state and regional colleges

### **Action #4** – Develop a Wabash River/Heritage Corridor Educational Curriculum and Teacher Training Opportunities.

**Why/benefits** - Creates awareness and pride resulting in increased preservation efforts, stewardship for the future

**How**

- Build into statewide 4<sup>th</sup> grade IN history curriculum
- Consolidate and make available current educational material
- Develop summer river study curriculum

**Who** – Local landowners and communities, local and state school boards/districts, regional and state colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations,

**TOURISM - Overview**

Tourism in Indiana benefits and impacts most residents in the state. Tourism is the clean industry. People come, visit, spend their money, and then leave visiting places or events that residents of a community are proud of and have invested time and resources to protect or enhance.

Indiana's tourism industry consists of a considerable cluster of businesses and organizations that depend on travel and tourism. Visitor spending impacts state and local economies by sustaining jobs and generating tax receipts. The impact tourism has on the state's economy has grown every year. In 2002, 58 Million visitors traveled Indiana spending \$6.7 Billion. More than 113,000 people are directly employed full time by tourism entities across the state. State government tax receipts totaled \$358.7 Million while local government tax receipts generated \$131.3 Million. The typical overnight traveler to Indiana is married (75%), 42 years old, has a graduate or post-graduate degree (44.2%), and an annual household income of \$57,100. The average Indiana travel party takes 2 trips a year, 4 nights in duration to or within the state each year, 85% travel by auto, without children (59%) in the summer (70.1%) and spends \$701 per trip.

Indiana is typically not a place where a family will spend their week's vacation. Tourism marketing for Indiana focuses on the geographic radius of our neighboring states and within the state with the largest marketing group being residents of Indiana. Luring visitors to Ft. Wayne from Indianapolis is as important as attracting the out-of-state traveler. When asked what activity visitors look for when planning a trip they responded:

| Activities                        | 2002  |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Enjoy scenic beauty               | 70.2% |
| Go shopping                       | 58.0% |
| Eat at unique restaurants         | 53.1% |
| Visit small or quaint towns       | 51.7% |
| Take scenic drives or tours       | 50.0% |
| Visit historic sites              | 49.2% |
| Lakes/rivers/natural features     | 46.3% |
| Visit state or national parks     | 34.6% |
| Attend fairs/festivals            | 34.1% |
| Visit with relatives              | 32.1% |
| Visit with friends                | 28.2% |
| Go antique shopping               | 24.0% |
| Visit larger metropolitan cities  | 23.8% |
| Visit zoos/child-oriented museums | 23.0% |
| Go hiking or biking               | 21.5% |
| Outdoor activities                | 21.1% |
| Go camping                        | 20.5% |
| Visit amusement/theme parks       | 18.2% |
| Gamble at riverboat casino        | 17.1% |
| Visit art/cultural museums        | 16.8% |
| Look for distinctive architecture | 16.5% |
| Attend sporting events            | 12.0% |
| Attend musical performances       | 11.9% |
| Visit nightclubs or bars          | 11.2% |
| Go to a popular music concert     | 6.6%  |

Tourism is a natural tool for economic development along the Wabash River Corridor. So many resources and assets along the Wabash River are available to the visitor. Natural, Historic, Recreational, Cultural, Scenic, are all elements the visitor is looking for when visiting Indiana. The Wabash River corridor also boasts a strong tourism infrastructure of convention and visitors bureaus, chambers of commerce, attractions, hotels, bed and breakfasts, unique restaurants, and shopping opportunities. The potential for tourism in the Wabash River corridor is significant.

“In the contemporary economy, tourism contributes to a diversified economic base. An economic development strategy that ignores the importance of tourism in today’s economy is overlooking real opportunities to supplement related industries and create various business clusters. It is important that travel and tourism serve as a gateway for states and communities to attract a wide variety of investments in a diversity of business sectors.”  
*Indiana Department of Commerce, 2002 Community and Economic Development Best Practices, Market Street Services, Inc.*

## **TOURISM RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- Feast of the Hunters Moon
- Legends and folklore
- Restaurants and Bed & Breakfasts
- Convention/Visitor Bureaus
- Tourism/directional signs
- Private Land
- Farmland
- Bitz Farm (North)
- SR 43 along the river (Central)
- Riehle Plaza (Central)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest power plant (South)

## **TOURISM - PLAN OF ACTION**

### **Action #1** – Create Corridor Identification

**Why/benefits** – Increase public awareness of the Heritage Corridor and its significant resources leading to increased visitation, appreciation and stewardship

**How** – Develop “Wabash River Heritage Corridor Community” sign to place at communities entrance

### **Action #2** –Promote and Market Corridor Resources and Events

**Why/benefits** – Increased public awareness of Corridor and its resources, increased economic opportunities through tourism

**How** –

- Commercial advertising, web sites, maps, signs, restaurant placements, corridor video, travel brochures, and more.
- Develop and distribute printed and web version of Heritage Corridor Calendar of Events, quarterly/seasonally

**Who:** local governments including, local tourism bureaus, IN Div. Of Travel and Tourism, WRHC Commission

### **Action #3** – Develop/Coordinate Corridor Events as Part of the Heritage Corridor Identity

**Why/benefits** – Increased public awareness of Corridor and its resources, increased economic opportunities through tourism

**How** – Work with to develop events such as

- Canoe Race, The Wabash 500, a Wabash River Cultural History Festival (music, folklore), other

**Who** - local government, corridor communities and residents, nonprofits and volunteers, IDRN, IN Div. Travel/Tourism, IN Historic Landmarks Foundation (HLI), IN Council for the Humanities (ICH)

**Action #4** – Provide Information to Promote Local and Corridor Recreational Resources and Facilities

**Why/Benefit** – Provide easy to access information to corridor residents and visitors on recreational opportunities

**How** –

- Develop and publish recreation guide to corridor
- Develop, use existing web sites to provide recreation information
- Special events focused on Corridor recreational opportunities

**Who** – Local government, nonprofits, Wabash Commission, IDNR and IDOC, NPS

**Action #5** – Develop Natural Resources Guide Specific to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor – Site specific including river/public access information

**Why/Benefit** – Provide public information, increase recreational use

**How and Who** – Identify/partner with resource managers, university and high school science clubs, conservation groups to develop guide

**OTHER RESOURCES**

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • People resources                  | • Indiana State University     |
| • Grassroots groups and connections | • Rose Human Technical College |
| • Intellectual resource             | • Vincennes University         |
| • Purdue University                 |                                |

**Action** - Increase Use/Partnerships with Resources at Regional and State Colleges (example, Director of Engagement at Purdue whose job is to bring Purdue to the community and vise versa.

**Why/benefits** - Allows students to learn to give back to the community, provides opportunities for student growth while providing resources for implementation of a variety of actions and activities.

**How** WRHCC serves as catalyst brings appropriate university resources/people to the table.

**Who** WRHCC, state and regional colleges and universities

**BOUNDARIES** – As defined by Indiana Code 14-13-6, the "Wabash River Heritage Corridor means that strip of land on Indiana abutting the Wabash River, the Little River, and the portage between the Little River and the Maumee River." Corridor counties are the nineteen counties containing any portion of the defined Corridor.

**During the public meetings, participants were asked what they perceive the boundaries of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor to be:**

- Ancient/Geologic boundaries
- Watersheds
- Both sides of the river
- Topographic – flood plain
- Vegetation – habitat
- Visual Valley - Viewscape/shed of the river
- Political – people made
- 19 Counties
- Counties that the river runs through Indiana and Illinois
- Interstate compact
- ½ to 2 miles each side of River
- Historic Resources
- Physical Stories - Anything that tells the story of the river
- History associated with river, impact of the river on history
- Historic Features related to historic themes/stories
- Towns that grew up a long time ago

**Below is a definition of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor that was the result of an extensive discussion of the qualities and characteristics of river corridors in Professor Dahl's course in Regional Design. It is intended to generate further discussions on the definition of the corridor and how to better communicate it to effected counties, communities and people within its boundaries.**

#### **Defining the Wabash River Heritage Corridor - Bernie Dahl, Landscape Architect**

The Wabash River is the focus any discussion of the Corridor in which it exists. If we are to define the Wabash River Heritage Corridor, then we must consider the comprehensive and inclusive characteristics of the corridor. While the River's length can be easily measured, the width of its corridor is more elusive. The River has physical qualities, dimensions and capacities, but it also has visual, cultural, historical and economic qualities and dimensions. The extent of the Corridor is not limited to adjacency to the River *or* the view of it or from it. Following are descriptions of the proposed boundary definitions of the Corridor:

The River itself is the primary determinant of the Corridor. Proximity to the river, or distance from it is relative to the edge of the river at normal flow. Were it not for the River we would not be challenged to define its corridor.

The corridor may be considered a series of land areas proceeding away from the river, i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary corridor areas.

Physical factors that define the corridor include topographic, edaphic and biotic qualities.

#### **Topographic determinants**

- The primary corridor is the immediate (annual) floodway of the river.
- The secondary corridor includes the extended (100 year) floodplain.
- The tertiary corridor includes the river valley walls.



#### Edaphic (soil) determinants

- The riverbanks and soils immediately adjacent to them are in the primary corridor.
- Floodplain soils, defined in county soil surveys, are in the primary corridor.
- Soil types found on the valley walls are in the tertiary corridor.

#### Biotic (vegetation) determinants

- The primary corridor includes plants which colonize along the riverbanks.
- The secondary corridor includes plants characteristic to the floodplain.
- The tertiary corridor includes plants that inhabit the river valleys slopes and immediate upland forests.

#### Wildlife (habitat) determinants

- The primary corridor includes species in the river, in the riverbanks and those that feed on river resources and immediate riverside wildlife travel paths.
- The secondary corridor includes the full extent of existing or potential floodplain habitat.
- The tertiary corridor includes upland forest habitat. This area also represents the refuge for river edge and floodplain species that seek higher ground during floods.

The above determinants can be delineated by anyone with information available from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources or library resources. County offices will have soil surveys and some information on vegetation and wildlife species. The delineation of the corridor is only as good as the quality of the information used to draw it. It must also be noted that while we focus on the definition of the corridor, we must always consider the whole watershed.

Cultural factors that define the corridor include visual, accessibility, economic, and historical qualities and characteristics.

#### Visual (sensory) determinants

- The primary corridor is the area from which the river or riverbanks are visible.
- The secondary corridor includes visual contact with riverside features (river-related trees, bridges, etc.).
- The tertiary corridor includes the area in which one senses the proximity to the river.

#### Accessibility determinants (i.e. ease of access to the river)

- The primary corridor is within easy pedestrian access of the river (< .25 miles).
- The secondary corridor is .25 to 1 miles from points of river access.
- The tertiary corridor is over a mile from points of river access.

#### Economic determinants

- The primary corridor includes commercial and industrial land directly adjacent to the river (shops, marinas, etc.).
- The secondary corridor includes other commercial and industrial land with significant ties to the river.

#### Economic determinants (negative)

- The primary corridor includes commercial, industrial and municipal point sources of pollution (sewage treatment plants and other discharges).
- The secondary corridor includes point sources of pollution near the river.
- The tertiary corridor includes identifiable lands near the river contributing to non-point source pollution.

#### Historical / cultural determinants

- The primary corridor includes all historical, archaeological, and cultural buildings, sites and districts adjacent to the river or the Wabash and Erie Canal.
- The secondary corridor includes all historical, archaeological, and cultural buildings, sites and districts with ties to, but not adjacent to, the river or canal.

Cultural sites are defined as having contemporary civic and festival functions. Historical sites are generally defined as being prior to the advent of railroads, a time when the river and canal were more prominent features in the economic and cultural landscape. Archaeological sites are generally defined as being of pre-European settlement times.

The reason for defining the river corridor must be considered throughout the process of searching for strategies and means for improving the health (quality) of the river and its adjacent corridor. Enhanced water quality will lead to increased demand for river access, which will lead to a demand for further enhancements to the corridor. A broad definition of the corridor will ensure a broad perspective on its potential for improvement. The next step in this broadening perspective is to look at the river's tributaries and its entire watershed.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **Resource Manual**

### **Appendices**

## APPENDIX

**Special Areas** - Within the Wabash River basin there are several "Special Areas". A full list of these is found in Appedix\_\_ listed below (IDEM 2003 WRAS Reports). It should be noted that not all of the areas listed are open to the public.

| County     | Special Area                            | Manager                        |
|------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Adams      | Baltzell-Lenhardt Woods Nature Preserve | IDNR                           |
| Adams      | Bellmont Recreation Area                | North Adams School Board       |
| Adams      | Fields Memorial Park                    | Adams Co. Park Board           |
| Adams      | Kekionga/Riverside Trailway             | Decatur Park Board             |
| Adams      | Kekionga Park                           | Decatur Park Board             |
| Adams      | Limberlost County Park                  | Adams Co. Park Board           |
| Adams      | Linn Grove County Park                  | Adams Co. Park Board           |
| Adams      | Monroe City Park                        | Adams Co. Park Board           |
| Adams      | Munro Preserve                          | ACRES                          |
| Allen      | Barrett Nature Preserve                 | IDNR                           |
| Allen      | Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve        | IDNR                           |
| Allen      | Bicentennial Woods Nature Preserve      | IDNR                           |
| Allen      | Camp McMillan                           | Girl Scouts of America         |
| Allen      | Cedar Creek/Rodenbeck                   | Izzak Walton League            |
| Allen      | Fogwell Forest Nature Preserve          | ACRES                          |
| Allen      | Foster Park                             | Ft. Wayne Park Board           |
| Allen      | Fox Island Nature Preserve              | Allen Co. Parks and Recreation |
| Allen      | Fox Island Park                         | Allen Co. Parks and Recreation |
| Allen      | Foxfire Woods                           | ACRES                          |
| Allen      | Franke Park                             | Ft. Wayne Park Board           |
| Allen      | Ft. Wayne River Greenway - Phase II     | Ft. Wayne Park Board           |
| Allen      | Havenhurst Park                         | New Haven/Adams TWP. Park      |
| Allen      | Jehl Park                               | Ft. Wayne Park Board           |
| Allen      | Jury Park                               | New Haven/Adams TWP. Park      |
| Allen      | Lindenwood Nature Preserve              | Ft. Wayne Park Board           |
| Allen      | McNabb-Walter Nature Preserve           | ACRES                          |
| Allen      | Mengerson Nature Preserve               | ACRES                          |
| Allen      | Meno-Aki Nature Preserve                | Allen Co. Parks and Recreation |
| Allen      | Metea Park                              | Allen Co. Parks and Recreation |
| Allen      | Moser Park                              | New Haven - Adams TWP. Park    |
| Allen      | Rodenbeck Nature Preserve               | Izzak Walton League            |
| Allen      | Sherman Street River Greenway           | Ft. Wayne Park Board           |
| Allen      | Vandolah Nature Preserve                | ACRES                          |
| Cass       | France Park                             | Cass Co. Parks and Recreation  |
| Grant      | Botany Glen                             | Marion College                 |
| Grant      | South Marion Park                       | Marion Park Board              |
| Grant      | Swayzee Park                            | Swayzee Park Board             |
| Howard     | Darrough-Chaplel Park                   | Kokomo Park Board              |
| Howard     | Jackson Morrow Park                     | Kokomo Park Board              |
| Howard     | Wilson Park                             | Kokomo Park Board              |
| Huntington | Huntington Reservoir                    | IDNR                           |
| Huntington | Wygant Woods Natural Area               | IDNR                           |

|            |  |                                 |
|------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Jay        | Gene Straton Porter Bird Sanctuary       | IDNR                            |
| Jay        | John Cring Memorial Forest               | Earlham College                 |
| Jay        | Limberlost Wildlife Habitat              | IDNR                            |
| Jay        | Northend Park                            | Portland Park Board             |
| Jay        | Sportland Park                           | Portland Park Board             |
| Miami      | Eel River Game Mgmt. Area                | IDNR                            |
| Miami      | Frances Slocum State Forest              | IDNR                            |
| Miami      | Peoria Public Access Site                | IDNR                            |
| Miami      | Seven Pillars of Mississinewa            | ACRES                           |
| Wabash     | Asherwood Nature Preserve                | Marion Schools                  |
| Wabash     | Eel River Public Access Site             | IDNR                            |
| Wabash     | Hanging Rock                             | ACRES                           |
| Wabash     | Laketon Bog Natural Preserve             | IDNR                            |
| Wabash     | Liberty Mills Public Access Site         | IDNR                            |
| Wabash     | Martin Glade                             | TNC                             |
| Wabash     | Mississinewa Dam                         | USACE                           |
| Wabash     | Mississinewa Reservoir                   | IDNR                            |
| Wabash     | Roann Park                               | Roann Park Board                |
| Wabash     | Salamonie Reservoir                      | IDNR                            |
| Wabash     | Salamonie River State Forest             | IDNR                            |
| Wabash     | Wabash Public Access Site                | IDNR                            |
| Wabash     | Willow Island Game Mgmt. Area            | IDNR                            |
| Wells      | Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve   | ACRES                           |
| Wells      | Bluffton Park                            | Bluffton Park Board             |
| Wells      | Deam Oak Monument                        | IDNR                            |
| Wells      | Hammer Nature Preserve                   | ACRES                           |
| Wells      | Huntington Reservoir                     | IDNR                            |
| Wells      | Huntington Reservoir Wildlife Mgmt. Area | IDNR                            |
| Wells      | Ouabache State Park                      | IDNR                            |
| Wells      | Roush Park                               | Bluffton Park Board             |
| Whitley    | Churubusco Community Park                | Churubusco Parks                |
| Whitley    | Gale Hagan Memorial Park                 | South Whitley Parks             |
| Whitley    | Merry Lea Environmental Center           | Goshen College                  |
| Whitley    | Morsches Park                            | Columbia City Park Board        |
| Whitley    | Tri-Lakes State Fish Hatchery            | IDNR                            |
| Carroll    | Adams Mill P.A.S./P.F.A                  | IDNR                            |
| Carroll    | Carroll Co. Gamebird Habitat             | IDNR                            |
| Carroll    | Knop Lake P.F.A                          | IDNR                            |
| Carroll    | Oakdale Dam Public Access Site           | IDNR                            |
| Carroll    | Owasco Wildlife Mgmt. Area Trust         | IDNR                            |
| Tippecanoe | Cumberland Woods                         | West Lafayette Parks/Recreation |
| Tippecanoe | Glen Acres Park                          | Lafayette Parks and Recreation  |
| Tippecanoe | Hanna Park                               | Lafayette Parks and Recreation  |
| Tippecanoe | Happy Hollow Park                        | West Lafayette Parks/Recreation |
| Tippecanoe | Horticultural Park Woods                 | Purdue University               |
| Tippecanoe | IN Veteran's Home Woods Nature Preserve  | State Board of Health           |
| Tippecanoe | Look out Point Nature Preserve           | TNC                             |
| Tippecanoe | Riverfront Park                          | West Lafayette Parks/Recreation |
| Tippecanoe | Ross 4H Camp Seep Springs                | West Lafayette Parks/Recreation |
| Tippecanoe | Tippecanoe Battlefield Memorial          | Tippecanoe Co. Parks/Recreation |
| Tippecanoe | Tommy Johnston Park                      | West Lafayette Parks/Recreation |

|            |   |                                |
|------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Tippecanoe | Wabash Breaks Nature Preserve             | TNC                            |
| Tippecanoe | Wabash River Park                         | Lafayette Parks and Recreation |
| Tippecanoe | Wea Creek Gravel Hill Prairie             | IDNR                           |
| White      | Spinn Prairie Nature Preserve             | TNC                            |
| White      | White Co. Gamebird Habitat Area           | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Brouillette Gamebird Habitat Area         | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Deno Gamebird Habitat Area                | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Fowler Community Park                     | Fowler Park Board              |
| Benton     | Fowler Highway Prairie Mgmt. Area         | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Greenwood Ditch Gamebird Habitat Area     | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Hawkins Gamebird Habitat Area             | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Kentland Bank Gamebird Habitat Area       | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | McGinnis/Lauerman Gamebird Habitat Area   | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Metro-Sixty Gamebird Habitat Area         | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Nickle Plate Farms Wildlife Mgmt. Area    | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Panzer Gamebird Habitat Area              | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Pine Creek Bottoms Gamebird Habitat Area  | IDNR                           |
| Benton     | Vinegar Hill Gamebird Habitat Area        | IDNR                           |
| Boone      | Boone Pond P.F.A.                         | IDNR                           |
| Boone      | Sugar Creek Wildlife Area Mgmt. Area      | IDNR                           |
| Fountain   | Covington Park                            | Covington Park Board           |
| Fountain   | Hillsboro Wildlife Mgmt. Area             | IDNR                           |
| Fountain   | Portland Arch Nature Preserve             | IDNR                           |
| Fountain   | Ravine Park                               | Attica Park Board              |
| Fountain   | Shades State Park                         | IDNR                           |
| Montgomery | Calvert and Porter Woods Nature Preserve  | IDNR                           |
| Montgomery | Pine Hills Nature Preserve                | IDNR                           |
| Montgomery | Spring Creek Seeps Nature Preserve        | IDNR                           |
| Parke      | Cecil B Hardin Reservoir                  | IDNR                           |
| Parke      | Montezuma Public Access Site              | IDNR                           |
| Parke      | Pedestal Rock Nature Preserve             | IDNR                           |
| Parke      | Raccoon Lake State Recreation Area        | IDNR                           |
| Parke      | Rocky Hollow-Falls Canyon Nature Preserve | IDNR                           |
| Parke      | Turkey Run State Park                     | IDNR                           |
| Putnam     | Big Walnut Managed Area                   | IDNR                           |
| Putnam     | Big Walnut Nature Preserve                | IDNR                           |
| Putnam     | Cagles Mill Natural Area                  | IDNR                           |
| Putnam     | Fern Cliff Nature Preserve                | TNC                            |
| Putnam     | Hall Woods Nature Preserve                | IDNR                           |
| Putnam     | Lieber State Recreation Area              | IDNR                           |
| Putnam     | Owen-Putnam State Forest                  | IDNR                           |
| Putnam     | Robe Ann Park                             | Greencastle Park Board         |
| Vermillion | Blanford Park                             | Vermillion Co. Parks           |
| Vermillion | Miller Community Park                     | Vermillion Co. Parks           |
| Vermillion | Perrysville Park                          | Vermillion Co. Parks           |
| Vigo       | Dobbs Memorial Nature Preserve            | Terre Haute Park Board         |
| Vigo       | Fairbanks Park                            | Terre Haute Park Board         |
| Vigo       | Flessher Memorial Woods Nature Preserve   | Vigo Co. Parks/Recreation      |
| Vigo       | Fontanet Woods                            | Vigo Co. Parks/Recreation      |

|             |   |                            |
|-------------|---|----------------------------|
| Vigo        | Green Valley P.F.A                      | IDNR                       |
| Vigo        | Hawthorn Park                           | Vigo Co. Parks/Recreation  |
| Vigo        | Kieweg Woods                            | Indiana State University   |
| Vigo        | Little Bluestem Prairie Nature Preserve | Indiana State University   |
| Vigo        | Little Grassy Pond Game Mgmt. Area      | IDNR                       |
| Vigo        | Prairie Creek Park                      | Vigo Co. Parks/Recreation  |
| Vigo        | Spencer Park                            | Terre Haute Park Board     |
| Vigo        | Voorhees Park                           | Terre Haute Park Board     |
| Clay        | Chinook P.F.A.                          | IDNR                       |
| Clay        | Forest Park                             | Brazil Park Board          |
| Clay        | Harmony Community Park                  | Harmony Park Board         |
| Clay        | Shakamak State Park                     | IDNR                       |
| Greene      | Crane Naval Support Center              | U.S. Dept. of Defense      |
| Greene      | Greene-Sullivan State Forest            | IDNR                       |
| Greene      | Worthington Public Access Site          | IDNR                       |
| Knox        | Clark's Landing Public Access Site      | IDNR                       |
| Knox        | Four Lakes Park                         | Vincennes Park Board       |
| Knox        | Oubache Trials Park                     | Knox Co. Park Board        |
| Knox        | Sandborn Community Park                 | Sandborn Park Board        |
| Knox        | White Oak P.A.S./P.F.A                  | IDNR                       |
| Knox        | Yocum Woods Wildlife Mgmt. Area         | IDNR                       |
| Sullivan    | Bluff Park                              | Merom Park Board           |
| Sullivan    | Greene-Sullivan State Forest            | IDNR                       |
| Sullivan    | Merom Public Access Site                | IDNR                       |
| Sullivan    | Minnehana Fish and Wildlife Area        | IDNR                       |
| Sullivan    | Sullivan City Park                      | Sullivan Park Board        |
| Gibson      | Buckskin Bottoms                        | TNC                        |
| Gibson      | Gibson Co. Wetland Conservation Area    | IDNR                       |
| Gibson      | Hemmer Woods Nature Preserve            | IDNR                       |
| Gibson      | Pike State Forest                       | IDNR                       |
| Posey       | Brittlebank Park                        | Mt. Vernon Park Board      |
| Posey       | Dogtown Ferry Public Access Site        | IDNR                       |
| Posey       | Goose Pond Cypress Slough Preserve      | TNC                        |
| Posey       | Gray Estate Cypress Slough              | IDNR                       |
| Posey       | Gray Owen Farm                          | TNC                        |
| Posey       | Gray Pitcher Farm                       | IDNR                       |
| Posey       | Harmonie State Park                     | IDNR                       |
| Posey       | Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area       | IDNR                       |
| Posey       | New Harmony Public Access Site          | IDNR                       |
| Posey       | Section Six Southern Flatwoods          | TNC                        |
| Posey       | Twin Swamps Nature Preserve             | IDNR                       |
| Posey       | Uniontown Locks and Dam                 | USACE                      |
| Posey       | Wabash Lowlands                         | IDNR                       |
| Vanderburgh | Stockwell Park                          | Evansville Park Board      |
| Vanderburgh | Stream Valley Park                      | Evansville/Vanderburgh Co. |